

REMARKS

The Official Action of 22 February 2005 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the recitations pertaining to the penetrating agent formerly in claim 17, and the latter claim has been canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to take account of the inclusion in claim 8 of the aforementioned penetrating agent, and claim 35 has been amended to take account of the recitation already in claim 8 of a specific solid wetting agent. In this regard, it is noted that the specification at, for example, page 26, lines 29-32 provides support for a mixture of two or more of the penetrating agents recited in claims 8 and 16, and the specification at, for example, page 30, lines 24-26 provides support for a mixture of two or more of the solid wetting agents recited in claims 8 and 35. The specification at, for example, page 29, lines 7-12 and 33-35 also provides support for using a solid wetting agent and another (further) wetting agent (see claim 15).

The amendments to the claims are respectfully believed to remove the bases for the claim objections appearing at paragraph 2 of the Official Action and the claim rejections appearing at paragraph 4 of the Official Action. All claims as amended are respectfully considered to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The subject matter of claim 17, which has now been incorporated into claim 8, stands

rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ota et al (paragraph 6 of the Official Action). The claimed subject matter also stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Freeman et al in view of Kubota et al, Ohta et al and Aldrich Catalog (paragraph 8 of the Official Action), or over Ganapathiappan in view of Kubota et al, Ohta et al, Aldrich Catalog and McCain et al (paragraph 14 of the Official Action). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The invention defined by claim 8 as amended requires the presence in the claimed ink composition of the recited polymer emulsion and both the recited solid wetting agent and the recited penetrating agent. The claimed invention is based at least in part upon Applicants' finding that, with the inclusion of 1,2-hexanediol or 1,2-pentanediol in the claimed ink composition (in addition to the recited solid wetting agent), the ink composition can realize an image having less feathering, good print density and good drying property while maintaining good storage stability (see Table B2 appearing on page 64 of the specification which provides the results of the Examples and Comparative Examples listed in Table B1 on page 59 of the specification in the Evaluations described on pages 60-63). Applicants are presently conducting additional experimentation in this regard and expect shortly to be able to provide a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 to substantiate the results of such experimentation.

It is respectfully submitted that the Ota et al reference, which the Examiner has cited under the provisions of 35 USC 102(e), does not show a single ink composition as claimed comprising both the recited penetrating agent and the recited solid wetting agent. Although Ota

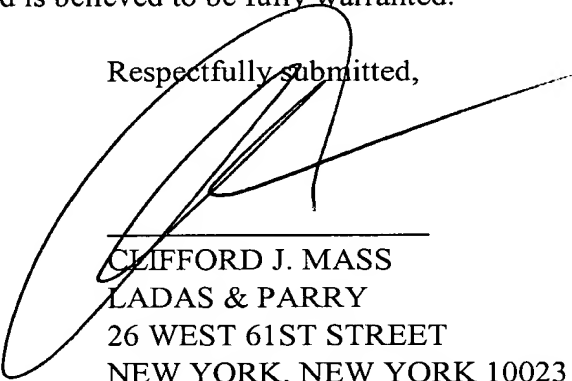
et al describe at paragraph [0086] et seq that a wetting agent for use in the process for the preparation of the pigment dispersion described therein may include, among others, an alkylene glycol such as described in paragraph [0099] or a water soluble organic solvent such as described in paragraph [0104], the list of possible wetting agents is vast (paragraphs [0089] to [0106]). Moreover, the list of possible wetting agents is **not** restricted (see paragraph [0089]: “As the wetting agent to be used in the invention, there may be used any wetting agent **without any restriction** so far as it has an effect of enhancing the dispersion efficiency as mentioned above.” (Emphasis added); see, also, paragraph [0107]). Under these circumstances, and in the absence of anything in the reference to suggest selecting the claimed penetrating agent and combining it with the claimed solid wetting agent in a single ink composition, it is respectfully submitted that the cited reference is not anticipatory of the claims as amended (see MPEP Section 2131.02).

With respect to the rejections under 35 USC 103(a), it is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not show the desirability of, or provide a motivation for, including both the claimed penetrating agent and solid wetting agent in a single ink composition as claimed. In this connection, Applicants respectfully call the Examiner’s attention to the specification at page 2, last full paragraph, wherein there is explained a problem in the prior art of mixing certain penetrating agents with certain resin emulsions, and respectfully note that the reference, Kubota et al, which the Examiner has cited to show the recited wetting agent does not show or suggest its use with the recited penetrating agent and the recited polymer emulsion in the claimed ink composition. Moreover, there is nothing in the prior art references to show or suggest picking

and choosing the recited penetrating agent and the recited wetting agent from among the vast number of possibilities described in the cited art for use in the claimed ink composition. Under these circumstances, it is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not set forth even a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the invention defined in the claims as amended.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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